

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /073 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN/G:MPLATT:RCS

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN: DAVID LAZAR

EUR/UK: JSHUMMATE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 274381

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GT, UK, BH, MX

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE: GUATEMALAN REACTION TO
CALLAGHAN'S NOTE

1. UK EMBASSY'S DAVID WALKER TOLD ARA/CEN TODAY THAT GOG FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RESPONDED TO FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S NOTE. FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD HMG CONSUL MCQUILLAN THAT GOG WELCOMED THE UK INITIATIVE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS BUT REQUESTED THAT THE ROWLAND VISIT BE CONFIDENTIAL AND UNPUBLICIZED, AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE MEETING TAKES PLACE.

2. ACCORDING TO WALKER FOREIGN OFFICE HAS DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH THE GUATEMALAN REQUEST TO KEEP ROWLAND'S VISIT CONFIDENTIAL. WALKER READ FROM A FCO TELEGRAM WHICH COMMENTED THAT KEEPING THE VISIT QUIET WILL BE AWKWARD AS AN
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ANNOUNCEMENT IS TO BE MADE IN LONDON TOMORROW (NOV. 20)

THAT ROWLAND WILL BE GOING TO SURINAM, MEXICO, AND BELIZE. FCO CERTAIN THE QUESTION WILL BE ASKED AS TO WHY ROWLAND IS NOT GOING TO GUATEMALA. BRITISH INTEND ATTEMPT TO DODGE THE ISSUE FOR AWHILE BUT ARE INSTRUCTING MCQUILLAN TO TELL THE GUATEMALANS THAT ROWLAND'S VISIT CANNOT REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME.

3. RECALLING THAT CALLAGHAN HAD WRITTEN TO SECRETARY THAT IVOR RICHARD WOULD ANNOUNCE ROWLAND VISIT TO GUATEMALA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF UK RESOLUTION, WALKER INQUIRED HOW DEPT. WOULD VIEW OMISSION OF THIS FROM RICHARD'S STATEMENT. WE REPLIED THAT SINCE GOG HAD REQUESTED THAT ROWLAND VISIT BE KEPT QUIET WE HAD NO REASON TO INSIST OTHERWISE BUT WE HOPED THAT RICHARD WOULD STILL MAKE STATEMENT RE UK'S INTENTION TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE274381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MPLATT:RCS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750403-0695
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751131/aaaabbel.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE DISPUTE: GUATEMALAN REACTION TO CALLAGHAN'S NOTE
TAGS: PFOR, GT, UK, BH, MX
To: GUATEMALA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006